

Message Text

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ACTION FBO-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 ABF-01 /014 W

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R 230340Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7245

UNCLAS KABUL 1726

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP - ABLD - AF

SUBJECT: BUILDINGS

1. IN OUR BUDGET CALL (A-42 OF JUNE 23, 1973) WE REQUESTED A TOTAL OF \$49,593 FOR FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS FOR ALL USG OWNED BUILDINGS. TO DATE WE HAVE RECEIVED ONLY \$9500.
2. WE HAVE DELAYED SUBMITTING DETAILED JUSTIFICATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS BECAUSE WE WANTED TO GIVE THE NEW AMBASSADOR AND HIS LADY A CHANCE TO SIZE UP THE PRIORITIES IN THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE. WE DELAYED ALSO BECAUSE OF THE ANTICIPATED VISIT TO KABUL OF MR. NISONGER WHOSE PLANNED APRIL VISIT HAS NOW BEEN CANCELLED. THE AMBASSADOR HAS NOW DECIDED ON A NUMBER OF ITEMS NEEDED IN THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE AND WISHES THAT THE TOTAL AMOUNT BUDGETED FOR THE RESIDENCE, I.E. \$21,885, BE ALLOTTED IMMEDIATELY. IN ADDITION TO THE \$9500 ALREADY ALLOTTED.
3. MISS. ELIOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUGGESTION MADE TO HER AND AMBASSADOR BY FBO IN WASHINGTON LAST FALL, PLANS TO VISIT INDIA IN APRIL TO CHOOSE NEW DRAPERY AND UPHOLSTERY FABRICS. BOTH UPHOLSTERY AND DRAPERIES IN REPRESENTATIONAL AREAS OF ER ARE IN ALL CASES WORN OUT AND REQUIRE REPLACEMENT. SHE ALSO PLANS TO BUY NEW CARPETING POSSIBLY IN INDIA OR OTHERWISE IN PAKISTAN, (ALL OF THE CARPETS IN THE GULKHANA, DINING ROOM, BEDROOMS AND HALLWAYS OF THE EMBASSY RESIDENCE ARE LITERALLY WORN THREADBARE.) IN THIS REGARD FBO SHOULD BE AWARE THAT AMBASSADOR NEUMANN

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HAD AT LEAST 18 PERSONALLY OWNED ORIENTAL RUGS WHICH

COVERED MUCH OF THE THREADBARE NATURE OF THE CARPETS
IN THE ER. THE FURNITURE IN THE GULKHANA (CHEAP RATTAN)
HAS TO BE COMPLETELY REPLACED.

4. CONCERNING THE CHANCERY: WE BUDGETED \$15,000 FOR AIR
CONDITIONING. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THE CHANCERY AT
KABUL HAS NO CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM. HOW THIS
OVERSIGHT CREPT INTO THE DESIGN CONTINUES TO MYSTIFY US
FOR IT GETS JUST AS HOT IN KABUL AND A THOUSAND TIMES DUSTIER
AS IT DOES IN FOGGY BOTTOM DURING THE PERIOD MAY-SEPTEMBER.
THE AVERAGE AGE OF OUR WINDOW A/C UNITS IS FIVE YEARS WHILE
THREE YEARS IS THE LIFE EXPECTANCY OF THESE A/CS IN THIS
EXTREMELY ARID AND TURBULANT SUMMER CLIMATE. WE NEED TO
REPLACE AT LEAST 15 AIR CONDITIONERS AND INSTALL NEW POWER
CIRCUITS AND OUTLETS FOR ADDITIONAL WINDOW UNITS IN OFFICES
STILL NOT AIR CONDITIONED. WE WANT TO ORDER THESE UNITS
NOW SO THAT SOME CAN BE FLOWN TO KABUL ON THE NEXT SUPPORT
FLIGHT. THIS IS AN ITEM WE HAD ALSO PLANNED TO DISCUSS WITH
NISONGER.

5. THE A/C WHICH WAS INTENDED TO COOL THE COMMUNICATIONS
CENTER HAS BEEN ON THE FRITZ FOR OVER TWO YEARS AND IT
ALSO NEEDS OVERHAULING. WE ARE PRESENTLY COOLING THE
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER WITH A JURY-RIGGED A/C WORKING OFF THE
ROOF OF THE CHANCERY.

6. WE ALSO NEED ADDITIONAL WATER COOLERS AND A HEAVY DUTY
WATER PUMP AS REQUESTED IN OUR BUDGET CALL. IT IS REQUESTED
THEREFORE THAT THE AMOUNTS BUDGETED FOR AIR CONDITIONING,
COOLERS AND A PUMP, VIZ. \$18,483 ALSO BE ALLOTTED IMMEDIATELY.

7. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON OTHER NEEDS IN REMINDER USG OWNED PROPERTIES.
ELIOT

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